



Fond du Lac County Health Department

City/County Government Center

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Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Fond du Lac County
Health Department

OPIOID OVERDOSE INCREASE

Suspected Opioid Activity Alert

December 2, 2020

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) and Fond du Lac County Health Department are issuing a public health alert due to an increase in suspected opioid drug overdose activity in Fond du Lac County from November 15 to November 28, 2020.

DHS identified a greater number of opioid drug overdoses than would otherwise be expected within a seven-day period based on Fond du Lac County's recent opioid overdose activity in each of the past 2 weeks. In the past 14 weeks, DHS has reported a total of 16 suspected opioid drug overdoses seen at hospital emergency departments.

Fond du Lac County Health Department issues this alert to increase community awareness and advise first responders, healthcare professionals, and people who use drugs and their families of the increased risk for overdose in our community. Currently, it is unknown as to what is driving this recent change in activity. It is possible that the composition of illicit street drugs in the community changed (including a mixture of opiates, fentanyl, carfentanil, and other synthetics).

This alert should serve as a notice to:

- Recognize the signs of an overdose:
 - Pale, sweaty or clammy skin
 - Lips or fingertips turn blue
 - Slow or irregular breathing: gasping, gurgling, or snoring
 - Difficult or unable to wake
- Always call 911 if you suspect someone is overdosing
- Avoid using street drugs alone; keep an eye out for your friends/family. With physical distancing recommendations in place, technology can be a great option to stay connected
- Carry Narcan (naloxone) and be prepared to use multiple doses when necessary
- Contact 211 for treatment and recovery resources

The Wisconsin Addiction Recovery Helpline is available to call at 833-944-4673 24 hours a day, seven days a week at no cost to connect Fond du Lac County residents struggling with addiction to services and help in the community. Additionally, calling 2-1-1 can provide individuals information on crisis services, detoxification services, assessment, counseling, day treatment, inpatient services, medication-assisted treatment, residential treatment, outpatient services, and peer supports. Alcohol and drug relapse rates increase with stress brought on by loss of income, social isolation, and anxiety. People struggling with substance use and their concerned family and friends can talk to a local Recovery Coach by calling ED2Recovery & Beyond at 920-807-0238

Resources for Providers

- [Addiction Medicine Consultation Line](#)
- [Project ECHO](#)
- [DHS Wisconsin Opioids Homepage](#)

Resources for the Community

- [Pharmacies Dispensing Naloxone](#)
- [Wisconsin Addiction Recovery Helpline 2-1-1](#)
- [Narcan Direct Program](#) - Contact Fond du Lac County Health Department at 920-929-3085
- [Drug Free Communities of Fond du Lac County](#)